

EDINBURGH SLATEFORD LONGSTONE PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

THE CONGREGATIONAL BOARD HELD A JOINT MEETING WITH THE KIRK SESSION ON MONDAY 3 MARCH 2014 AT 7.00PM IN THE SESSION ROOM

Present: Lin Baillie, Betty Bald, Chris Campbell, Lily Campbell, Liz Chalmers, Sandra Davidson, Alison Fairley, Rev Mike Frew (Chair), Marion Fulton, Mary Hynd, Jean Gordon, Marion Marshall Suzanne Riddoch, Sharon Taylor, Sheila Ward

Apologies: Nathan Baillie, Dennise Brown, Jane Fox, Ian Welsh, Rita Welsh

The Rev Mike Frew welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened with a Bible reading and a prayer. Mike then explained the reason for the meeting is to discuss the Trustees Report and Annual Accounts and to decide whether to conduct a feasibility study

2 Trustees Report and Annual Accounts

Everyone was given a final draft of the report and accounts. Mike briefly went over the contents and asked whether there were any questions or comments. After a brief discussion it was agreed that Helen Carruthers should be put into the Trustees added 13 March 2013 and then again in the Trustees removed during 2013 column.

As there were no more questions Liz took us through the financial pages of the report highlighting the confirmation of the change of auditors from Johnston Smillie to Hollis Accounting. Income from offering had reduced over the year but money received from Gift Aid had increased due to us being allowed to claim on small cash donations. There were no losses by the end of the financial year. The Trustees formally approved the accounts. Thanks were expressed to Liz Chalmers for preparing the accounts.

3 Feasibility Study

Mike explained that the reason for this discussion was to decide what we wanted to use the church for and whether the church and buildings were fit for purpose. It was agreed to exclude the manse from the discussion

Aims of the Church

- To share the gospel
- To build the church
- To serve the community

Use of the buildings are for

- Worship/fellowship
- Community use
- Christian education
- Social activities

Fit for purpose?

- Kitchen is not fit for purpose
- The church and buildings are difficult to heat and keep in good repair
- There is under-used space in the buildings
- Cupboard space is not well utilised
- There is only enough money to keep the buildings ticking over, not to improve them
- There is no dirty sink or separate hand-washing facilities

Anything positive about the building?

- There is nothing else in the area with the same space or availability
- There is a car park
- The grounds are big and reasonably well kept
- The building is versatile and disability friendly

The big worry about making any major changes is how much is it going to cost

Mike let us know that the Property Convenor at Presbytery may be able to indicate that the General Trustees can assist with feasibility studies at no cost to congregations. It was agreed that Mike would approach the Presbytery property convenor to ask him for advice

A sub-committee of Mike Frew, Jean Gordon and Suzanne Riddoch will then meet to look at the options and decide whether to take any of them further. Mike will ask a couple of members of the Property committee whether they would like to be on the sub-committee

4 Date of Next Board Meeting

The dates of the next meetings are as follows:

7th April 2014 (Property committee to meet at the manse at 6.30pm)

16th June 2014

Mondays at 8pm with committees meeting at 7.15pm

This being all the business the meeting was closed at 8.00pm with each blessing the others.